(c) and (d) Proposals for establishment of additional capacity are considered keeping in view the availability of raw material and other relevant considerations. Manufacture of writing, printing and wrapping paper from agricultural residues, waste and bagasse is covered under de-licensing scheme.

Losses sustained by Metal Box India Ltd.

2708. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Metal Box India Limited which was earning very good profits has sustained a loss of more than Rs. 136 crores during the last financial year;

(b) if so, what are the main reasons for such a huge loss suffered by the Company; and

(c) what corrective steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) According to the information received from Metal Box I Ltd., the company had sustained a loss of Rs. 5.82 crores during the year ending 31st March, 1987 and a loss of Rs. 7.35 crores (unaudited) during the period April to September, 1987. The accumulated losses as on 30th September, 1987 stood at Rs. 26.57 crores.

(b) According to the company, the continuous losses were due to substantial increase in the cost of major raw materials, high incidence of differential custom duty and an increase in excise duty, and inadequate availability of Tin plates from indigenous sources resulting in low capacity utilisation.

(c) Under the provisions of the sick industrial companies (Special Provisions Act, 1985), Govt. have set up Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) which looks into the various aspects of revival of sick industrial companies. Such sick industrial companies are required to report sickness to the Board for considering suitable measures for revival/rehabilitation. It is understood from BIFR that Metal Box India Ltd., have already approached them and their case has been registered by the Board on 15-1-88.

Price control on Aminophylline etc.

2709. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Quesion 635 given in the Rajya Sabha one 29th February, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Aminophylline, Quinidine Sulphate, Pethidine Hcl, Analgin Sulphadimidine in bulk are under price control under DPCO 1987;

(b) whether it is also a fact that fifinished medicines marketed under generic name of scheduled drugs are exempted from price control as per DPCO, 1987;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the Manufactuers of these products have increased the price from 30 per cent to 185 per cent; and

(d) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to safeguard the consumer from the expliotation of drug companies?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) All the bulk drugs referred to in the question except Pethidine Hcl are price controlled under DPCO, 1987.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prices of some formulations being marketed under generic name have gone up.

(d) The formulations of scheduled drugs when sold under generic-name have been exempted from price control under DPCO, 1987 as per recommendation of the Kelkar Committee. The step was intended to discourage the use of brand name in drugs.

Strike by Employees of Public sector undertakings

2710. SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA:
PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the emplopees of the public sector undertakings all over the country decided to observe an all India three day strike in March, 1988 in support of their demand for the revision of pay scales;

(b) if so, what are the details of the steps taken by Government to defuse the possible explosive situation in the public sector enterprises; and

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in announcing the revised pay scales for these employees?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Suitable advice has been issued to the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations to ensure maintenance of law and order and even tempo of life of the community.

(c) Govt. does not announce the revised pay scales for the workers. Revised pay scales are to be settled on the basis of bilateral negotiations between the workers and managements, with the approval of Government.

Assets of top Industrial Houses

2711. SHRI SATYA PRAKASH MALAVIYA:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state what were the assets of 50 top industrial houses in India as on the 31st January, 1988 and during the preceding three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): A Statement showing the assets at the end of the accounting period ending during 1986 (January—December) in respect of the undertakings registered under the MRTP Act and belonging to the 50 top industrial houses and during the preceding three years is enclosed. (*See* below **Data on assets an on 31st** January, 1988 are not available since all the balance sheets for the periods subsequent to 1986 are not yet due.

STATEMENT

Assets for 1983, 1984, 1985 *and* 1986 *of companies registered under the MRTP Act belonging to the* 50 *top Industrial Houses ranked according to their assest in* 1986.

(Rs. Crores)

Sl. No.	Industrial Houses	1986	1985	1984	1983
1	2.	3	4	5	6
1.	Birla	4606.57	4111.55	3359.04	2830.94
2.	Tata	4348.94	3698.84	3120.13	2672.40
3.	Reliance	2021.53	1056.36	672.96	562.98
4.	J. K. Singhania	1229.94	1057.03	858.37	674.15